United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Security Council continues to discuss situation in occupied territories, Lebanon says Israel must disarm settlers or jettison Middle East peace process; several States call for international presence to protect Palestinian people.

+ Secretary-General and Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia welcome Bosnian accord signed yesterday in Washington.

+ Human Rights Commission, meeting in Geneva, adopts three resolutions dealing with right to development, economic, social and cultural rights and minority rights.

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The Security Council last night resumed its discussion on the situation in the occupied territories following the recent attack on the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in which more than 50 people were killed. Explaining why his Government had suspended talks with Israel, the representative of Lebanon told the Council that Israel must decide between disarming all settlers or jettisoning the entire Middle East peace process. He also called for the establishment of an international presence in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Referring to a bomb attack in his country two days after the massacre, he said "the forces which have tried over the years to destabilize Lebanon are behind this bombing, in order to divert attention away from the massacre at Al-Ibrahimi".

The representatives of Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates and Libya joined the call for an international presence to protect the Palestinian people, saying the settlements must be dismantled and all settlers returned to Israel.

Some speakers asserted that the massacre at the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque had not been perpetrated by an individual madman since the Israeli Government had allowed him to carry a weapon and enter the Mosque. They also charged that Israeli soldiers had participated in the attack and had later killed protesting Palestinians. Saying Israel had violated numerous Security Council

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resolutions, speakers called on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter in response to the situation in the occupied territories.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the accord signed yesterday in Washington by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats to unite territories under their control. In remarks to the press last night, the Secretary-General described the accord as "a very positive initiative."

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, also welcomed the accord, and expressed gratitude to the United States for facilitating it. They said it was important that the two parties were reviving a relationship which had been strained by intense fighting in Central Bosnia and Mostar since last year.

However, the Co-Chairmen stressed that peace would not be achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina until the three constituent peoples of the Republic agreed to a comprehensive settlement. They said they would help all three parties to settle their differences, with the continuing assistance of the United States and the Russian Federation. In that regard, they welcomed the agreement reached yesterday in Moscow to reopen Tuzla airport.

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At a meeting in Geneva yesterday, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted three resolutions dealing with the right to development, economic, social and cultural rights and minority rights. With regard to development, the Commission urged the Working Group on the Right to Development to take into account policies to foster an international economic climate responsive to the needs of developing countries. The Commission also decided to invite heads of international financial institutions to participate in future sessions of the Working Group.

In its resolution on economic, social and cultural rights, the Commission noted the conclusions of the seminar on indicators to measure the realization of those rights held in Geneva in January 1993. It also recognized the importance of using indicators as referred to in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Regarding minority rights, the Commission urged States to give effect to the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. It also called on States to consider concluding bilateral and multilateral arrangements or agreements in order to protect those rights.

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